

Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Allotment
PINE CREEK/SULPHURBEDS ASPEN STAND #4
(1) July 15, 2008
(2) October 10, 2008

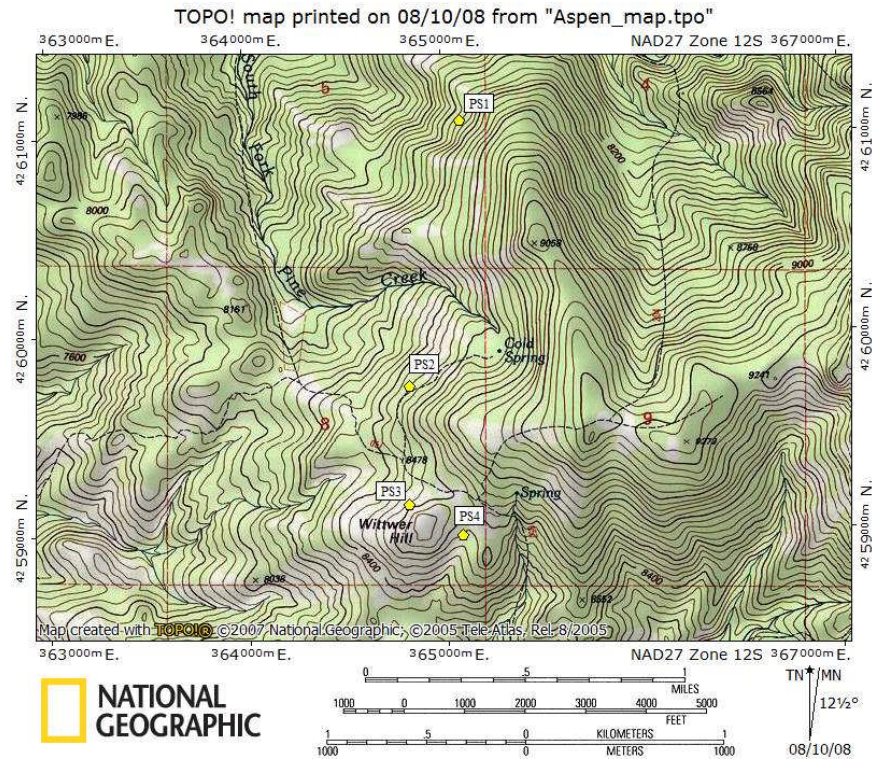
Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds #4 is a single-tier stand (Fig. 1), located in the saddle/draw between Wittwer Hill and the small knob to the east of Wittwer Hill, southwest of an ORV trail. The stand is 645' long and 456' wide. Most of the stand has an overstory of tall, mature trees and an understory of fairly unbrowsed young ramets (Figs. 2-3), but is lacking a recruitment layer (>6', but less than 75% as tall as the overstory) except for a single dense patch at the southwest end of the stand (Fig. 4).

(1: 7/15/08) As of July 15, 10.5% of the tallest leaders were browsed, and 11.1% browsed or dead; 43.7% of the subleaders were browsed and a similar percentage (45.5%) browsed or dead. Cattle are scheduled to be in Wildcat Pasture from August 16-Sept 30 and cattle were not seen in the pasture during the survey.

(2:10/10/08) By October 10, 38.1% of the tallest leaders were browsed, but **63.6%** were browsed or dead. This was due primarily to the death of leaders due to stripping. While stripping may not remove a leader's buds as when it is browsed (clipped off), the leader often withers due to the stripping (Fig. 8). Sometimes a leader is stripped without killing the leader and its buds. Subleaders were 54.2% browsed and 70.6% browsed or dead, again the death due mostly to stripping.

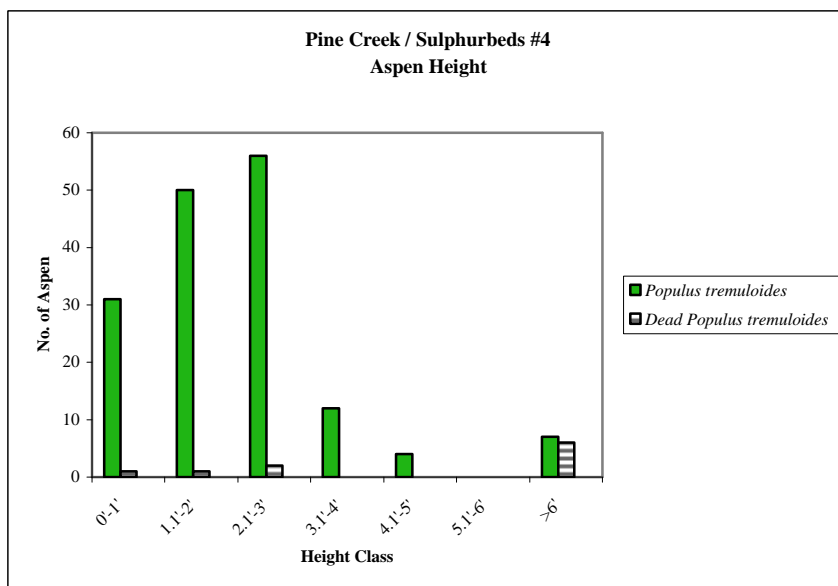
The height class of 5.1'-6' is nearly absent in the stand, although some of the 3.1'-4' height class seems to have moved into the 4.1'-5' height class (p. 3).

Cattle were scheduled to be removed from the Pasture by Sept. 30, but six were present in the pasture below PS4 by Brush Hollow Creek on Oct 10, and one cow was heard at the top of PS4.

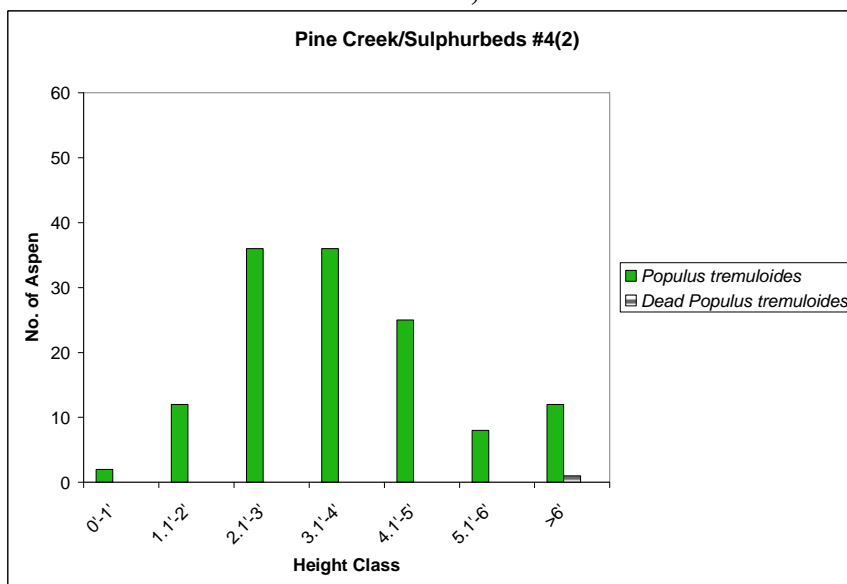


Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds #4 (PS4)	(1) July 15, 2008 Martin/David (2) October 10, 2008 Hoskisson/O'Brien
Fishlake NF/Beaver RD	Allotment: Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds Pasture: Wildcat
GPS: 12S E 4258972 N 4259137 NAD CONUS 27	Elevation: 8,571'
Aspect: Southwest	Animal sign: Cattle, elk, deer
Dominant vegetation: Aspen, snowberry, Oregon grape, vetch sp., Kentucky bluegrass (<i>Poa pratensis</i>), grass sp. and sedge sp.	
Other notes: The northwestern edge and area in the draw is more open and contains many heavily browsed aspen (Fig.4), but the majority of the stand has dense relatively unbrowsed aspen ramets (Fig. 1-2). The dense patch of recruitment at the southwest edge of the stand did not fall into any of the transects, or plots (Fig. 3).	
Questions: What enabled the one patch of dense recruitment aspen to grow above browse height?	

July 15, 2008



October 10, 2008



July 16, 2008

7 *Populus tremuloides* >6': Ave. DBH 7.9"

6 Dead *Populus tremuloides* >6': Ave. DBH 5.6"

Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds #4 153 <i>Populus tremuloides</i> <6'	
	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
% tall leaders browsed	10.5
% tall leaders browsed or dead	11.1
% subleaders browsed	43.7
% subleaders browsed or dead	45.5

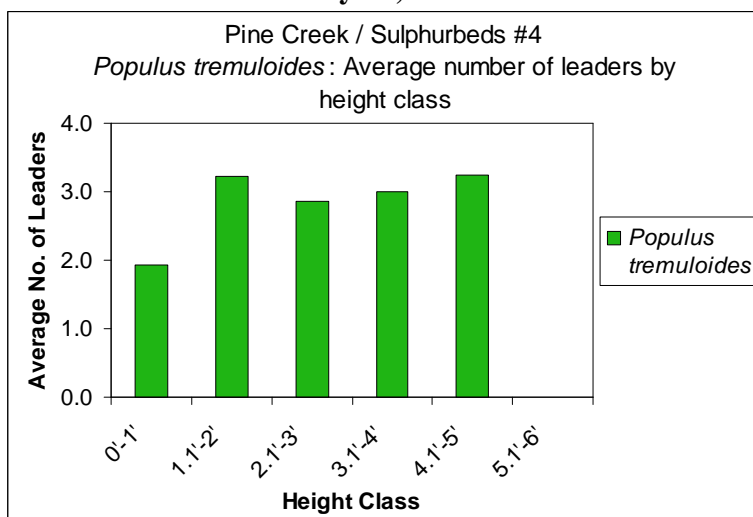
October 10, 2008

12 *Populus tremuloides* >6': Ave. DBH 5.2"

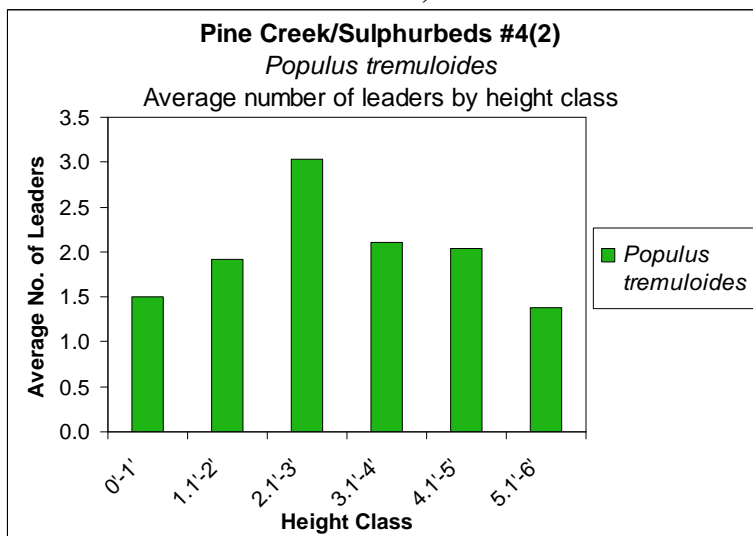
1 Dead *Populus tremuloides* >6': DBH 1.2"

Pine Creek/Sulphurbeds #4(2) 119 <i>Populus tremuloides</i> <6'	
	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
% tall leaders browsed	38.1
% tall leaders browsed or dead	63.6
% subleaders browsed	54.2
% subleaders browsed or dead	70.6

July 15, 2008



October 10, 2008



July 15, 2008

Pine Creek / Sulphurbeds #4 Aspen Stand Structure				
	% cover overstory aspen	% cover recruitment trees	% cover understory trees	% overstory trees senescent
Plot 1	50	0	20	20
Plot 2	45	0	55	56
Average	47.5	0	37.5	38
Single-tier stand				



Fig. 1 (10/10/08) PS4, a single-tier stand on Wittwer Hill



Fig. 2 (7/15/08) Single-tiered stand dominated by mature trees and understory aspen.



Fig. 3. (7/15/08) This year's growth on young aspen has not yet been heavily browsed.



Fig. 4 (7/15/08). Patch of dense recruitment in northwest corner of stand.



Fig. 5 (7/15/08) Open northwest edge of the stand with heavily browsed aspen.



Fig. 6 (7/15/08). Plot 1: Sparse ground cover.



Fig. 7 (7/15/08) Plot 1 canopy: Mature aspen and open sky.



Fig. 8 (10/10/08) Plot 2: Aspen leader dead and stripped.